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# MISCELLANY

## *Fusconaia collina* (Conrad), from the James River, Virginia, an additional note

by
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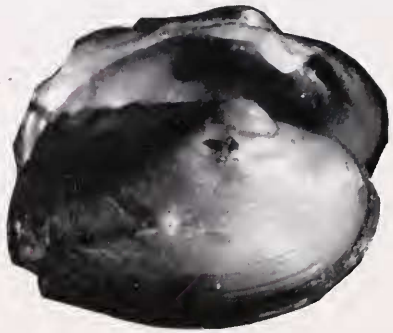
When Johnson and Clarke (1983) described a spiny mussel, *Elliptio* (*Canthyria*) *steinstansana,* from the Tar River, North Carolina, they assumed that the specimens figured by Boss and Clench (1967, pl. 15, figs. 2 and 3) as *Pleurobema* [=*Fusconaia*] *collina* (Conrad) were correctly identified and that the locality, North Carolina, was incorrect. However, the lot, National Museum of Natural History 84376, could not be studied since it was on loan to the Ohio State Museum. It was recently returned and through the kindness of Dr. Joseph Rosewater we have been able to examine it. The specimens numbered 84376.1-4, and 84376.6 (a single valve) are indeed *Fusconaia collina* (Conrad). Specimen 84376 has "N. Car. Emmons" pencilled in one of the valves. E. Emmons collected a number of shells from the Cape Fear, Neuse, and Roanoke River Systems in North Carolina for Isaac Lea, some of which the latter described as new. Unless *F. collina,* now known only from the James River System, Virginia, is eventually found in North Carolina, it is assumed that the locality data with these shells is incorrect. Boss and Clench (1967, pl. 15, fig. 2) gave a dorsal view of specimen 84376.2 which is illustrated here, ventrally, Text fig. 1. Unfortunately the specimen they illustrated ventrally 84376.5 (pl. 15, fig. 3) is a young specimen of *Elliptio* (*Canthyria*) *spinosa* (Lea), known only from the Altamaha River System, Georgia. Of the three known spined species of unionids this is the only one with long spines that are often hollow, that has a faintly greenish periostracum,and is less rhomboidal than the other two.



Text fig. 1. *Fusconaia collina* (Conrad). [James River, Virginia]. National Museum of Natural History 84376.2. Length 19, height 12, width 7 mm. (less spines). (2.25 ×).

The label on this lot from the Isaac Lea collection indicates that the specimens came from J. G. Anthony. In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there are small specimens from the Anthony collection of both *F. collina* and *E. (C.) spinosa* with correct localities, which offer no clues as to which of Lea's specimens came from Anthony or how they all became labeled as from North Carolina. Nevertheless, it appears that this mixed lot, with its incorrect data, led to Morrison's (1955) correct assumption that there was an undescribed spiny mussel in the Carolinas.

## Literature Cited

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